

Government of the District of Columbia  
**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5C**  
PO Box 77761 Washington, DC 20013  
www.anc5c.org



~~June 17, 2008~~ *March 18, 2010*

Zoning Commission  
District of Columbia Office of Zoning  
441 4th Street, NW  
Suite 210 South  
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Big Bear Café zoning change request

Dear Commissioners:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5C (ANC 5C) met on May 20, 2008, to consider the proposed zoning change of 1700 1<sup>st</sup> Street, NW at lot 4, square 3103 to become part of the C-2-A Florida Avenue Commercial Corridor. The public received notice concerning the date, time, and location of this meeting.

Stuart Davenport, proprietor of Big Bear Café, presented an overview of his zoning change request. Big Bear Café sits on the border of the C-2-A Florida Avenue Commercial Corridor, and has functioned as a business within this corridor since the building was built in 1897. The proposed zoning change will correct inconsistencies in the current Zoning Map and will bring the Zoning Map into accord with the current Comprehensive Plan for Washington, DC.

This change has the widespread support of neighborhood residents as well as community groups, civic associations, approval from community leaders, and local officials, both in terms of how the zoning change strengthens the prospects of the Big Bear Café in particular and how it would contribute to having a vibrant business at that location in general.

After hearing the presentation and allowing time for questions and discussion on May 20, 2008, of the eleven ANC 5C commissioners present on June 17, 2008, nine voted to support the zoning change. One Commissioner objected; Stuart Davenport, 5C03 Commissioner, recused himself from the vote. ANC 5C anticipates that the Zoning Commission will afford this recommendation the great weight it is required to by law.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kris Hammond

Corresponding Secretary, ANC 5C

*Former*

**Commissioners**

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*ANC5C meets on the 3rd  
Tuesday of the month.*

**ZONING COMMISSION**  
District of Columbia  
CASE NO.10-14  
EXHIBIT NO.1E

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**  
**7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

All Nations Baptist Church  
North Capitol St. and Rhode Island Ave., NE

## MONTHLY MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA

ANC5C citizens are invited to bring suggestions and recommendation for community improvement to the meeting. However, please observe simply courtesies at all times -- wait to be recognized before speaking and do not speak over others or while others have the floor. Please limit your comments to ONE MINUTE so to give others a chance for expression. Members of the community will be recognized after the Commissioners have asked questions or comments regarding guest presentations. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain public order during the meeting. *Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

### Part I: Community Concerns and Progress Reports ----- 7:05 p.m.

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1) Call to Order  | Commissioner Bonds               |
| 2) Roll Call  | Commissioner Salatti             |
| 3) Approval of the April 2008 Meeting Minutes                                     |                                  |
| 4) Acknowledgement of Community Leaders and Guests                                | Commissioner Hammond             |
| 5) Treasurer's Report   | Commissioner DeFoe               |
| 6) MPD Update   | PSA 501 Officers                 |
| 7) Community Concerns   | Moderated by Commissioner Wright |
| 8) Remarks from the Office of Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr.              |                                  |
| 9) Comments by Alice Thompson, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services |                                  |

### Part II: Outstanding Business ----- 7:35 p.m.

- Update on Grant Applications ..... Commissioner Day  
For action: Metropolitan League Grant Application (Summary Presentation)  
Progress Report/Updates: Harriet Tubman Memorial, Bloomingdale Community Mediation,  
Kick-boxing Tournament
- Update on Celebration Honoring Area Youth Athletics ..... Commissioners Grant and Salatti

### Part III: New Business ----- 8:00 p.m.

- Update on Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) Activities, Alice Harper, 5D Community Relations Specialist
- Update on Catholic University Campus Plan ..... Craig Parker, University Counsel
- Progress Report on Community Issues .....  
... Single Member District Meeting Highlights ..... Commissioner Holloway (5C12)
- Proposed Zoning Changes for 1700 First St, NW .... Commissioner Davenport
- Update on Soldier's Home Development ..... Commissioner DeFoe

**Note: Questions and Comments by Commissioners followed by Community Comments**

### Part IV: Committee of the Whole Executive Session ----- 8:45 p.m.

This portion of the meeting is reserved for COMMISSION ACTION ONLY, and therefore audience comments will not be entertained. The audience is asked to keep their comments and share them with their Single Member District Representative at the conclusion of the meeting. Thanks again for your cooperation.

- 1) Pay Bills
- 2) Items for June 2008 Meeting Agenda

Commissioners Day and DeFoe

**Meeting Adjourned**

**8:55 p.m.**

#### Commissioners

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ANC5C meets on the 3rd  
Tuesday of the month.

#### Next Meeting:

**June 17, 2008**  
Edgewood Towers Senior  
Building -- Crawford Hall  
635 Edgewood Street, NE

#### Upcoming Meetings:

July 15 -- Edgewood  
Towers/Crawford Hall



## MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Edgewood Senior Building-Crawford Hall  
635 Edgewood Terrace, NE

### Part I: Community Concerns and Reports

- 1) Call to Order by Chair Anita Bonds at 7:13 p.m.
- 2) Roll Call: Commissioner Salatti called the roll:

X	5C01 Anita Bonds, Chair	X	5C07 Barrie Daneker
X	5C02 Kris Hammond		5C08 Marshall Phillips
7:54	5C03 Stuart Davenport	X (left 9:21)	5C09 Silas Grant
X	5C04 John Salatti	X	5C10 Timothy Day
X	5C05 Denise Wright	7:16	5C11 Allison DeFoe
7:16	5C06 Mary Lois Farmer-Allen	7:30 (left 8:00)	5C12 Derrick Holloway

- 3) Approval of the May 2008 Meeting Minutes: Updates to the May minutes:
  - a. The ANC approved reimbursing Commissioner Wright \$31.73 for her newsletter.
  - b. The ANC approved \$10 for Commissioner Daneker for parking and \$211.22 to Commissioner Salatti for light meeting refreshments.
  - c. Commissioner Farmer said she would like her attendance marked as "excused."
  - d. Commissioner DeFoe would like to add to page one, item five (Treasurer's Report) that no report was made in May because the Corresponding Secretary said keys to the P.O. Box were lost and so the Treasurer had no access to the bank statements.

After receiving these corrections and updates from other commissioners, Commissioner Salatti moved that the minutes from the May ANC meeting be approved. Commissioner Grant seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

- 4) Acknowledgement of Community Leaders and Guests: Commissioner Grant introduced leaders and guests: *Dianne Barnes*, financial secretary of the Bloomingdale Civic Association and former ANC (among other community organizations she serves); *Michael Clark*, President of the Edgewood Civic Association; *Michael Henderson*, Vice President of the Edgewood Civic Association (among other offices and organizations he serves); The Catholic University of America: *Toby Millman*, Vice President of Project Development, Abdo Development; *Craig Parker*, General Counsel; *Carla Perlo*, Director of Dance Place, Sgt. Donald Smalls, 5D
- 5) Treasurer's Report: Commissioner DeFoe handed out a report. Bank statements not yet available, but she did receive during the meeting April's statement, but not March's and May's. Regarding the Kickboxing grant, report item 2, Commissioner DeFoe needs some paperwork back that concerns the grant. Commissioner Davenport said that he would get that to her.

Commissioner Day moved to accept the treasurer's report. Chair Bond seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Because the Treasurer's Report included some information about grants, Commissioner Day reviewed the 2008 grant rules.

### Commissioners

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### Next Meeting:

**July 15, 2008**  
Edgewood Towers Senior  
Building - Crawford Hall  
635 Edgewood Terrace, NE

Mark your calendar  
to attend the  
remaining meetings  
through 2008:

September 16  
October 21  
November 18  
December 16

- Another public space near Metro.
- Maybe a meeting space/public space at 8<sup>th</sup> and Monroe.
- South is a townhouse component to transition into single family homes. Architecture: echo the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century architecture, but create a new look.
- Retail: would be small scale but compatible with what is going on 12<sup>th</sup> St.

12- to 18-month process before the development built.

**Action Item:** Vote on Zoning Change for 1700 First Street, NW: Last month, Commissioner Davenport summarized the need for this zoning change for his business property. Commissioner Bonds moved that we approve the zoning. Commissioner Wright seconded the motion. Aye: 9. No 1 (Daneker), Commissioner Davenport recused himself from the vote. Motion approved. Letter will be written the Zoning Commission.

**Emergency Action Item:** Dominican House Driveway Relocation: Commissioner Grant introduced Father Thayer, Brendan Beck, and Brian Whelan of the Dominican House, which is at Michigan and Monroe Avenues, NE. To improve safety and access to the property, they have asked the ANC to support their efforts to move their driveway 30 feet.

Commissioner Wright moves that ANC 5C support the move of the driveway for public safety and send a letter of support to the Public Space Permit Division of DDOT. Commissioner Salatti seconded Motion approved unanimously.

**Progress Reports: Introductions by Commissioner Grant**

- St. Paul's Housing: Jack Lester, EYA, updated the ANC on this project. Because of additional meetings EYA has had in the last month with Commissioner Grant and neighbors, Office of Planning, and Zoning, EYA has made some changes to their plans. The plan now has fewer units (14-15) for total of 237, more buffer, opened courtyard, same architecture (stone architecture, typical of Brookland), increased affordable units (from 23 to 24 (more than 10% affordable; 50 to 80% AMI, \$350,000 subsidy per unit; \$5M total subsidy)). Quality and design same as market-rate units. Energy-star rated homes and LEED standards.
- Tree Watering Campaign: Liz Tylander, DDOT Urban Forestry Admin, gave out info about UFA and watering trees.

**Part IV: Information of Interest**

- Progress Report on Single-Member District Issues: Commissioner Wright: Walk-thru in Eckington was successful. Highlights: (1) the 300 block of W St. will receive speed humps and markings to narrow look of street; (2) 300 block of Randolph sidewalk will be paved; (3) Todd St alley between Lincoln Road and North Capitol Street has been repaved.

**Part V: Committee of the Whole Executive Session**

- 1) Pay Bills: Commissioners Day and DeFoe report no bills to be paid.
- 2) Operations Resolutions: To facilitate the signing of checks, Commissioner Farmer-Allen stated that the ANC needs to have a third, bonded person who can co-sign checks. That way we are more likely to have two eligible signers available.

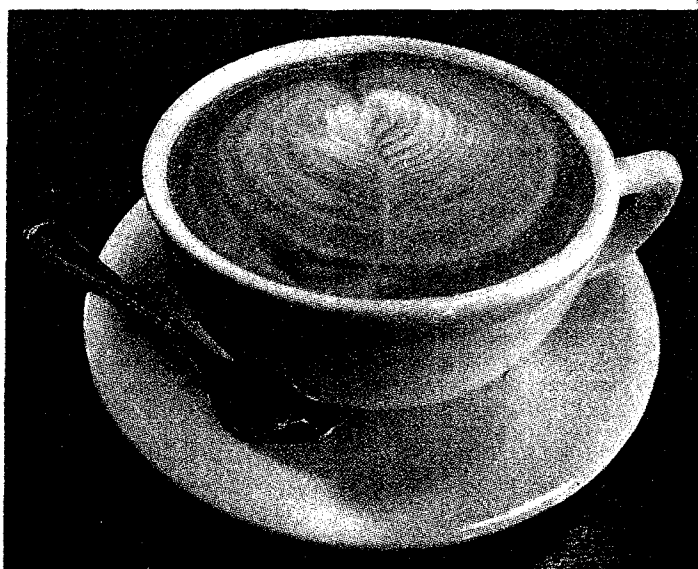
She moved that we bond a third commissioner to be able to sign checks in the absence of the Treasurer. Commissioner Daneker moves that we table the vote on Commissioner Farmer-Allen's motion; Commissioner Day seconds Commissioner Daneker's motion. Motion approved unanimously.

- 3) Items for July 2008 Meeting Agenda: 1 Economy Corp. and St. Paul's housing Project

**Meeting Adjourned:** Commissioner Daneker moved adjournment. Commissioner Farmer-Allen seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

# On the Menu

## GOOD TO GO



BY LOIS RAIMONDO — THE WASHINGTON POST

Latte art adorns a hot cup at comfy, retro Big Bear, where Wi-Fi is free.

### Big Bear Cafe in Bloomingdale

Long, long ago, before Starbucks ruled the world, coffee shops were real community spots with mismatched furniture, friendly faces and drinks that you could order without resorting to such phrases as "half-caf skinny with wings."

Big Bear Cafe, which opened in June in Bloomingdale, is a throwback to the B.S. era. The airy space has communal tables, the requisite comfy armchairs in the corner and a long bar where verifiable locals sip expertly made lattes, ordered without lingo. The lone clue that you're in an A.S. coffee shop is the quiet: On a recent weekday morning, the only sounds were an alt-rock soundtrack and the soft clicking of computer keys as patrons surfed the Net on free Wi-Fi.

If all of that still doesn't warrant a trip to First and R, the food will. Pastries are delivered daily, and salads and hot and cold sandwiches are made to order with fresh ingredients, many from the Sunday farmers market that in season sets up shop right outside. Josie's Salad (\$6) is a generous portion of field greens, chopped chicken

breast, feta and cucumber that manages to be healthful and satisfying. So does the buttery smoked salmon sandwich with cucumber and cream cheese on a fresh baguette (\$7). Even better were the grilled panini. The most popular are the turkey, apple and gooey brie (\$6) and the old-fashioned grilled cheese (\$4.50), which tastes just like Mom's — maybe better.

And don't forget the coffee. Big Bear serves single-bean and blend coffees from Counter Culture, a North Carolina-based boutique coffee importer, and none of them has that dark-to-burned flavor that we've come to associate with too many "specialty" coffees. There's also a selection of lovely loose Rishi teas, such as peach blossom white tea and earthy citrus oolong.

— Jane Black

■ **Big Bear Cafe**, 1700 First St. NW, [www.bigbearcafe-dc.com](http://www.bigbearcafe-dc.com), [iana@bigbearcafe-dc.com](mailto:iana@bigbearcafe-dc.com). Hours: Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sundays, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Washington Business Journal - May 28, 2007

<http://washington.bizjournals.com/washington/stories/2007/05/28/story11.html>

## WASHINGTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Friday, May 25, 2007

# Developers bullish on Northwest's Bloomingdale

Washington Business Journal - by [Erin Killian](#) Staff Reporter

For the Bloomingdale neighborhood in Northwest D.C., revitalization begins with a cup of coffee.

Or so hope Stuart Davenport and Lana Labermeier, a husband-and-wife team that plans to open an independent coffee shop as a community-gathering spot in the little-noticed Bloomingdale neighborhood.

The Big Bear Cafe, at 1700 First St. NW, will be the second coffee shop to open in as many years in the area, which encompasses the North Capitol Street stretch between Rhode Island and New York avenues, just west of Shaw and north of the emerging North of Massachusetts Avenue (NoMa) district.



Joanne S. Lawton

Bear essentials: Big Bear Cafe is getting read to open as a community coffee shop in Bloomingdale.

[View Larger](#)

Three blocks away is Window's Cafe, which opened in 2005 at First Street and Rhode Island Avenue.

Some say the two cafes signal the beginning of a renaissance for Bloomingdale.

"There are all of these new people who have moved in and a lot of personalities, but nobody has a place to go eat and have coffee," said Davenport, who lives three doors down from Big Bear. "It's a quiet, funky neighborhood."

Davenport, who serves as Big Bear's general contractor, said he expects the coffee house to open by the end of May, once it passes the city's health inspection.

Others are injecting money into the area as well. Robin Shuster, who runs the Mount Pleasant farmers market, raised \$2,000 in three days from area residents to launch a weekly farmers market in June next to Big Bear. A nonprofit group called North Capitol Main Street is hiring a business coach this fall to teach retailers how to market their shops. And D.C.-based NextGen Development CEO Brian Brown -- well-known for redeveloping townhomes -- is buying parcels along North Capitol Street.

Bloomingdale is "in the process of revitalization," said Victoria Leonard-Chambers, the head of economic development and communications for Councilman Harry Thomas Jr., D-Ward 5. "The residential area is revitalizing, and business is just trailing behind that. You need that critical mass of residents to support the neighborhood commercial district."

The D.C. government's investment into the North Capitol area reinforces its potential.

Mayor Adrian Fenty has allocated an initial \$400,000 through the Great Streets Initiative. Two new Great Streets programs, North Capitol and Rhode Island, join seven others that are involved in improving public transportation and the aesthetics in underserved areas.

JULY 6, 2007

## Big Bear Cafe Opens Up Bloomingdale

DCist: Big Bear Cafe Opens Up Bloomingdale [http://dcist.com/2007/07/06/first\\_look\\_big.php](http://dcist.com/2007/07/06/first_look_big.php)  
2 of 6 1/10/2008 1:12 PM

Near sunset on a Tuesday in the middle of May, Lana Labermeier and her husband Stuart Davenport were sitting outside their then-unfinished new Bloomingdale coffee shop, Big Bear Cafe, enjoying a hard earned cold beer after a long day of landscaping work. Unfortunately, their neighbors could hardly let them rest.

"When are you gonna be open?" shouted one man from his car. "Are you hiring?" asked another. "What's this going to be?" "Aren't you open yet?" At least eight different people from the neighborhood stopped to inquire about the status of the cafe in the space of an hour. "It's like this all the time," Labermeier explained.



Officially launching tomorrow after a soft opening that began a few weeks ago, Big Bear has caused quite a stir since the day renovations began at its location at 1st and R Streets NW -- not so much because the couple has invented something brand new (it is a coffee shop after all) -- but because the largely residential Bloomingdale neighborhood (or Eckington, depending on who you ask around here) has apparently been starving for retail services for some time. Until recently, the only other businesses nearby were a few Chinese fast food restaurants, a liquor store, and the tiny Windows grocery store. Now that Big Bear is open and the brand new Bloomingdale Farmers' Market (also the brainchild of the couple, who live a few doors down from the cafe, and Davenport is the local ANC 5C03 commissioner) is running on Sundays across the street, suddenly other businesses are opening in the vicinity you might not have imagined would pop up here -- like The P Spot, a new fitness studio offering "strip aerobics" and more.

The mood surrounding the the birth of the new coffee shop seems to be infectious. Jody Clark, who lives around the corner and is working part-time at Big Bear, can be overheard telling curious new customers about how much she loves living in the area. "Until the coffee shop opened up I didn't know any of my neighbors," Clark said. "I only wanted to work here so I could finally meet people."

## The Big Bear Café Is the Latest Expression of Shaw's Rapid Transformation

by: Jenny Johnson

An ambitious project is set to open in the Bloomingdale section of Shaw that aims to bring custom Italian espresso drinks and strengthened community ties to a neighborhood undergoing a deep transition. The Big Bear Café and its companion producer-only Sunday farmer's market will be open for business by June 17.

The Big Bear Café and farmers' market embodies the essence of change in the District, where inspired small businesses can have a chance to thrive due to revitalizing urban communities. But that same revitalization promises to bring a certain set of challenges to the café, with rising property values meaning often unevenly distributed benefits and losses for residents, and some embracing change more than others.

The couple behind Big Bear Café, newly elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner and general contractor Stu Davenport and landscape architect Lana Labermeier, says they envision creating a center for public life in Bloomingdale where neighbors can hang out and interact in the heart of the diverse community they have come to love in Northwest, DC. In addition to serving fine coffee drinks, the business plan includes live music, meeting space for groups and other community-oriented activities.

"I want to have something going on here every night," Davenport says. "The idea from the very beginning was that this was to be a community place."

About a year-and-a-half ago, the couple jump-started their dream of opening a San Francisco-style coffee shop, where nearly every block features a distinct café.

The endeavor began with the purchase of a building at the corner of First and R streets, NW, that was then being leased to a corner convenience store that sold alcohol and some grocery items and secured sales behind a panel of bullet-proof glass. The store's lease was up, and partly due to the neglected state of repair of the building, the couple decided not to renew it.

Shortly after, the couple announced plans for a new life for the building. "In the end, we just decided to go for it," Labermeier says. The Big Bear Market turned into the Big Bear Café.

Aware of the sometimes difficult transition happening in the neighborhood, the couple says they held many community meetings about the renovation to find out the preferences of as wide a cross-section of neighborhood residents as possible.



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Vol. 39, No. 2

# The InTowner

Since 1968 • Serving Washington D.C.'s Intown Neighborhoods

AUGUST  
2007

Next Issue  
SEPTEMBER 14

## Adams Morgan Day Festival Set for Sunday, Sept. 9

By Jenny Howard & Liz Hirschhorn\*

Local business and residential volunteers are creating a beehive of activity as they prepare for the 29th annual Adams Morgan Day festival, which will be held on Sunday, September 9 between 12 noon and 7 p.m.. Both new and returning visitors will enjoy the diversity of this cultural street festival, revamped and reinvigorated by the Adams Morgan Main Street Group. "We are pleased with the positive response to Main Street's redesign of the festival layout, with only one row of street vendors, which creates a smoother crowd flow and visibility for our neighborhood business storefronts," explained festival Chair Lisa Duperier. Festival goers will choose from a cornucopia of food, dance, music, and exhibits across several stages and plazas.



photo—Raymond K. Fudge,  
courtesy Adams Morgan Main Streets Group.

The Kids Fair will be newly expanded this year with games and activities for children, and live acts such as puppet shows and

Cont., ADAMS MORGAN DAY, p. 6

## New Farmers Market in the Bloomingdale Neighborhood Welcomed and Very Popular

By April Fehling\*

Just a few blocks from an imposing concrete fortress soon to house the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Bloomingdale neighborhood flourishes each Sunday on a more human scale. Barely two months old, the Bloomingdale Farmers Market is quickly becoming the heart of this residential community nestled just west of busy North Capitol Street.



photo—April Fehling—The InTowner.

Like many neighborhoods throughout the city, Bloomingdale and nearby Eckington and Edgewood in Northeast are in transition. Long-time residents of the historically African-American community are grappling with skyrocketing property values as the community becomes more racially, culturally and economically diverse.

Despite the changes, long-time and new residents alike have embraced a vibrant newcomer to the 1700 block of First Street, NW: fresh, local produce, sold directly to the community by the farmers who grow it.



photo—April Fehling—The InTowner.

"We so often have these invisible walls that separate us along race and class," said ANC Commissioner Kris Hammond, who represents Ward Five's Single member District 5C-02. "Sometimes good food is just the kind of thing to bridge the gap."

The dream of residents Lana Labermeier and Stuart Davenport, the Bloomingdale market opened in June alongside the couple's breezy new coffee shop, the Big Bear Café. Locals lounge on the café's broad patios or in the adjacent triangular park while shoppers browse the colorful produce stalls.

Cont., FARMERS MARKET, p. 7

## Four Branch Libraries, Including in Shaw, to Get New Buildings; "Partnership" Deals for Some Projects Raising Major Questions

By Anthony L. Harvey

Often described as a "patchwork of holes and clusters," the District's public library system — with over two-dozen branches located throughout the city — is in crisis. It is a system said by many to have too many facilities in some areas and too few in others. All seem in agreement, however, on the desperate need to both reopen libraries at the four closed branch locations, and to renovate or replace nearly all the others.



illustration—courtesy, DC Public Library.

Architect's interior view rendering of the Tenley-Friendship interim library located in a 5,000 square-foot storefront space at 4200 Wisconsin Avenue, NW as seen from the front.

The formal agenda for the July 20th meeting of the Library Board of Trustees' Facilities Committee reflected the importance of this condition with the first seven agenda items dealing with closed, interim, kiosk, and out-dated library facilities. These include the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, now a DC Historic Landmark but in need of dramatic rehabilitation; the Shaw neighborhood's Watha T. Daniel, closed in December, 2004 for total replacement; Tenley-Friendship; Georgetown, recently burned while undergoing renovations; Anacostia; Benning; Sursum Corda, soon to be re-located as part of a larger redevelopment effort; and the recently refreshed West End Library, which is now slated to become a condominium occupant of a mixed-use, mega-residential develop-

ment across from the Ritz-Carlton apartment block.

Under its new Chief Librarian, Ginnie Cooper, the DC Public Library (DCPL) has crafted an ambitious and comprehensive capital construction plan complete with Mayoral and City Council mandated funding. At the July 20th facilities committee meeting staff reports were presented on the status of the four closed branches — Watha T. Daniel, whose community interim library still has an uncertain opening date (see, "Shaw Neighborhood Branch Library Still in Limbo," *InTowner*, July 2007, page 1); Tenley, which is continuing with its storefront interim facility three blocks from its shuttered and soon to be demolished old building at Wisconsin Avenue and Albemarle Street; Anacostia's 4200 square-foot interim library with 28 brand new computers among its bright and lively offerings; and Benning, which is ready to open with an interim facility like that at Anacostia but which lacked electricity at the time of the committee's meeting. Raze permits for all four old branch library buildings have been applied for and architects for the four replacement buildings have been selected.

Opening the Benning interim branch was predicted for the Monday following the facilities committee meeting. Ironically, DCPL's own press office announced Benning's opening later on the same day of the meeting. And when item seven on the committee's agenda was reached, those unaware of a developer's interest in the Benning library's strategic location were surprised to learn that City Interests, LLC. have expressed



photo—courtesy, DC Public Library.

Now closed Watha T. Daniel branch library building as seen from 8th Street & Rhode island Avenue, NW. The building is slated to be razed and replaced with a new structure.

Cont., LIBRARIES, p. 18

### WHAT'S INSIDE

Letters	3
Community Forum	3
Around Our Community	3
Corcoran St. Safeway Gets a Jolt	4
Celebrating Annie's 80th	5
National Night Out	5
Crimes Reported	8
ABC Board Actions	9
Scenes from the Past	10-11
At the Museums	12-13
Historical Society Exhibit	13
Food / Dining	14-15
Classifieds	16
Service Directory	17
Real Estate	19-20



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# get wired\*

\* Web sites for

## Wi-fi Hot Spots

Looking to get out of the office and go mobile? Here are our favorite spots with free wireless Internet access.

**The National Mall:** The Open Park Project, a local nonprofit, brought wireless Internet to the Mall, so now you can browse the Web while sitting amid some of Washington's best museums and gardens. Try grabbing signals at these three spots: the Enid A. Haupt Garden behind the Smithsonian Castle, the plaza beside the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. The only catch is that the settings are so lovely, you might find it hard to concentrate on your work.

**Big Bear Cafe:** A market and liquor store in DC's Bloomingdale neighborhood has been transformed into a welcoming neighborhood coffee shop where neighbors enjoy the Counter Culture Coffee and free Internet service. Friendly baristas and good coffee and sandwiches make the cafe a laid-back spot to check e-mail or get some work done. First and R sts., NW.

**Caboose Cafe & Bakery:** During the day, this Del Ray cafe with good Ethiopian food and sandwiches has a hip coffeeshouse vibe. At night, you can get a full dinner and glass of wine. Bonus: You can skip over to the Dairy Godmother for frozen custard afterward. 2419 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria; 703-566-1283.

**Tryst:** This large Adams Morgan coffee shop has dozens of comfortable couches and chairs for settling in with your laptop—plus good coffee, sandwiches, pastries, and even alcohol. The people-watching is terrific—you're likely to see political bloggers and tattooed local musicians—but keep in mind that the place turns off its wi-fi

on weekends. 2459 18th St., NW; 202-232-5500. Tryst's cousin in Woodley Park, Open City, also offers wi-fi—including weekends. 2331 Calvert St., NW; 202-332-2331.

**Murky Coffee:** Despite its name, this Clarendon coffee shop serves some of the area's best coffee drinks. Hang out in the homey space with

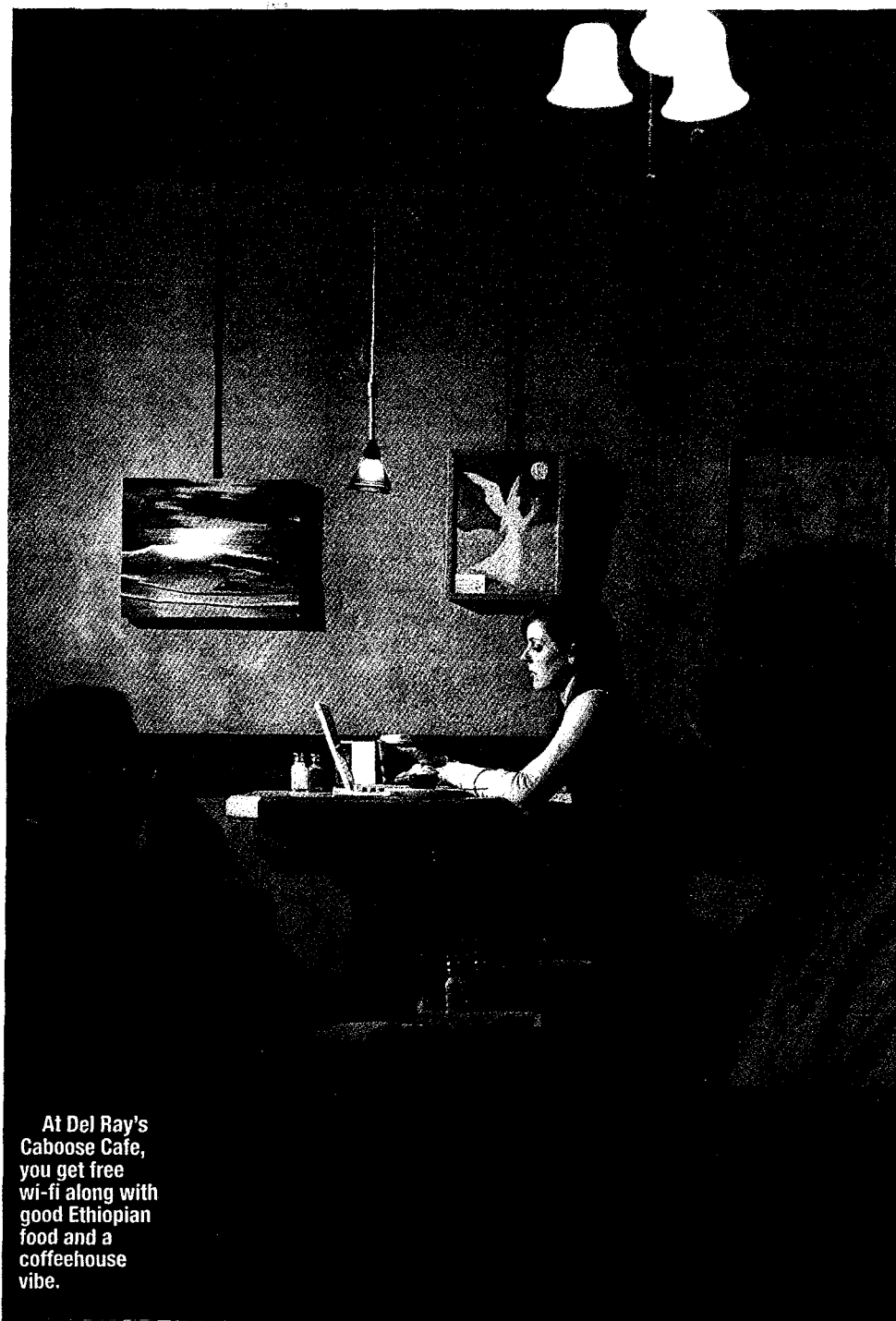
the Arlington art crowd, and try the rich, not-too-sweet hot chocolate. 3211 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; 703-312-7001.

**Mayorga Coffee Factory:** Along with wireless Internet, good coffee, and solid service, this spacious Silver Spring spot has a "quiet room" in the back. 8040

Georgia Ave., Silver Spring; 301-562-9090.

**DC2NY bus:** This bus picks you up from Dupont Circle or 14th and I streets, Northwest, and drops you off at New York's Penn Station, with free wi-fi during the ride. Round-trip fares are \$40 to \$50; [dc2ny.com](http://dc2ny.com).

—CATHERINE ANDREWS



At Del Ray's Caboose Cafe, you get free wi-fi along with good Ethiopian food and a coffeeshouse vibe.

**Sunday, June 17, 2007**

**Bloomington Farmers Market**



100\_0439.JPG

Originally uploaded by In Shaw

You know that feeling? That feeling you have when you look around and all is right with the world. That's what I had sitting inside the Big Bear, sipping an ice tea, looking out the big open windows and watching business at the new farmer's market buzz along.

When I got there it was midday and apparently there was a rush and some producers sold out. I heard tale of a big crowd of people waiting on the sidewalk, curving around the corner waiting for the market to open at 10. Then this crowd bought a bunch of stuff, leaving just flowers, lamb, plants and berries to the after church crowd. Really, at noon there wasn't a lot to choose from, you early people bought everything!

I wound up buying strawberries, cherries, the last head of lettuce from one vendor, and some frozen lamb chops. The lamb was a bit pricey for me, so I probably won't be buying it on a regular basis. But the cherries were just right and very sweet.


Sitting with some friends I noted how the market and the cafe fed off each other. The Big Bear was a bit crowded inside with every table taken lucky us a couch had just freed up. People wandered from the cafe to the market and from the market to the cafe. This was the best location for both.

Some of you may remember there was an attempt of a farmer's market a few years ago that failed. It had several problems. I went maybe once and it was a hot dusty parking lot at Florida and North Capitol with a sprinkling of vendors. The produce was pitiful looking, Mary Ann Wilmner mentioned she bought strawberries from the failed market and the berries were rotten below the surface. The poor fellow who representing the non-profit running that market got reamed at the BACA meeting by the citizenry. This market is a far cry from that sad memory. According to the fliers I have, there will be more vendors next week. Considering I wasn't at the market during the rush, I guess Sunnyside Farms was there with the eggs and the veggies. I guess the people selling the cherries was Reid's Orchard and the ones selling all the flowers Dragonfly farm. Next week Truck Patch Farms, producing salads, greens, and pasteurized pork. And at some date not mentioned there will be a cheese vendor and a baker. Another flier lists a laundry list of herbs, fruits, veggies, flowers and meats that will be at the market.

This market and this coffee shop seems to be just the thing that the area needed. It has been wonderful to run into friends and neighbors at the Bear over the past few days. Mary Ann said

that it was nice for the community to come and meet at some place other than a BACA meeting. Where if you've been to a BACA meeting, much bitching takes place. Then she or someone else also threw around the idea of starting up a neighborhood knitting group. Beautiful.

Labels: business, quality of life

*posted by Mari @ 17.6.07 *



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## BEST OF 2009

## Best Indie Coffee Shop: Big Bear Cafe



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**LOCAL, SUSTAINABLE AND AUTHENTIC** are three of the guiding principles at **Big Bear Cafe**. That, and you won't find **Splenda** anywhere on the premises. "It takes away from the purity and essence of the coffee and espresso," says **Jo-Elle Burgard**, one of the cafe's managers. The Eckington building dates back to 1895, when it housed a corner store that may have been called the Big Bear Market (the owners don't know for sure). Its current incarnation opened with a simple goal: "To have a community meeting place," Burgard says.

**Her Fave:** It's a tie between Peregrine and Chinatown Coffee Company for Burgard's non-Big Bear place to grab a cup of joe.

» Big Bear Cafe, 1700 1st St. NW; 202-470-5543; Bigbearcafe-dc.com

» Explore a full list of the year's winners at the Best of 2009 index.

*Photo by Kevin Dietsch for Express*

Posted By Rudi Greenberg at 12:00 AM on November 6, 2009

Tagged in Best of 2009



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## COMMENTS (1)

It's in Bloomingdale, not Eckington.

By Drew, Posted November 6, 2009 1:41 PM

## CLASSIFIEDS



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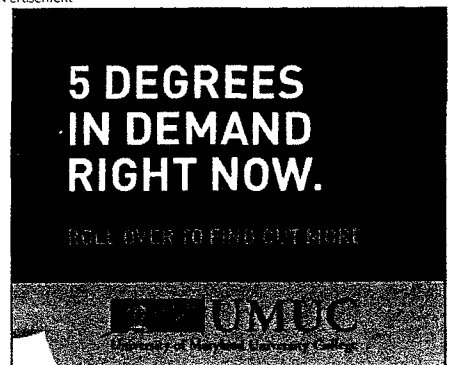
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## GAMES / PUZZLES



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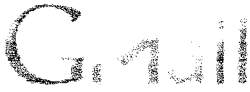
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stuart davenport &lt;studavenport@gmail.com&gt;

## Zoning for the Big Bear Cafe

McCarthy, Ellen (OP) &lt;Ellen.McCarthy@dc.gov&gt;

Fri, Dec 22, 2006 at 3:18 PM

To: "Miller, Robert (COUNCIL)" &lt;miller@dccouncil.us&gt;, "Steingasser, Jennifer (OP)" &lt;Jennifer.Steingasser@dc.gov&gt;

Cc: "Gray, Vincent (COUNCIL)" &lt;VGray@dccouncil.us&gt;, "Slonneger, Dawn (COUNCIL)"

&lt;DSlonneger@dccouncil.washington.dc.us&gt;, "Nero, Richard (DCOZ)" &lt;richard.nero@dc.gov&gt;,

"studavenport@gmail.com" &lt;studavenport@gmail.com&gt;

Rob,

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. A neighborhood café would be such a great use here. We will be happy to work with Mr. Davenport to come up with the best solution

Ellen

**From:** Miller, Robert (COUNCIL)**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2006 2:16 PM**To:** McCarthy, Ellen (OP); Steingasser, Jennifer (OP)**Cc:** Gray, Vincent (COUNCIL); Slonneger, Dawn (COUNCIL); Nero, Richard (DCOZ);

'studavenport@gmail.com'

**Subject:** FW: Zoning for the Big Bear Cafe**Importance:** High

Ellen and Jennifer:

I am writing on behalf of the Council Chairman's office to seek assistance from the Office of Planning in providing guidance to Mr. Stuart Davenport, a Bloomingdale resident, who wants to open a cafe with expanded seating at a location that apparently is very much supported by the community but apparently not permitted by the existing zoning.

Based on Mr. Davenport's email below and my quick look at the Zoning Map, Mr. Davenport owns a building at 1700 1st Street NW, at a corner of Florida Avenue, where apparently there has been nonconforming commercial uses for many decades in what appears to be a R-5-B zoning district. Directly across both 1st Street and Florida Avenue from this site there apparently is C-2-A zoning which appears to cover most of the frontages along both sides of Florida Avenue in this neighborhood except for the half block where this building is located.

Although current zoning (if it is in fact R-5-B) apparently does not permit expansion of the pre-existing

5/26/2010

Gmail - Zoning for the Big Bear Cafe

nonconforming use, I would note that R-5-B zoning along the Florida Avenue frontage of this block is inconsistent with the land use map designation on both the current and proposed Comprehensive Plan land use maps. The current land use map designates the Florida Avenue frontage of this block, including the corner frontages on 1st Street, as low density commercial, and the proposed Future Land Use map just adopted by the Council designates these frontages as mixed use low density commercial and moderate density residential. In either case, a re-zoning from R-5-B to C-2-A seems to be required by the Comprehensive Plan, and such re-zoning presumably would then permit Mr. Davenport's proposed cafe with the expanded seating.

Would your office please review this situation and, if my analysis is correct, work with Mr. Davenport on the most expeditious approach to achieving the zoning consistency for this site that would permit the proposed community cafe use, or if my analysis is incorrect, on other zoning relief that might be necessary for this use?

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter

Rob

*Robert Miller*

*Legislative Counsel to*

*DC Council Chairman*

*[RMiller@DCCouncil.us](mailto:RMiller@DCCouncil.us)*

*202-724-8127*

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gray, Vincent (COUNCIL)

**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2006 10:01 PM

**To:** 'stuart davenport'; Miller, Robert (COUNCIL)

**Subject:** RE: Zoning for the Big Bear Cafe

Hi Rob:

Would you be kind enough to provide direction to Mr. Davenport on this issue.

Vince Gray

-----Original Message-----

**From:** stuart davenport [<mailto:studavenport@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2006 8:21 PM



# METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

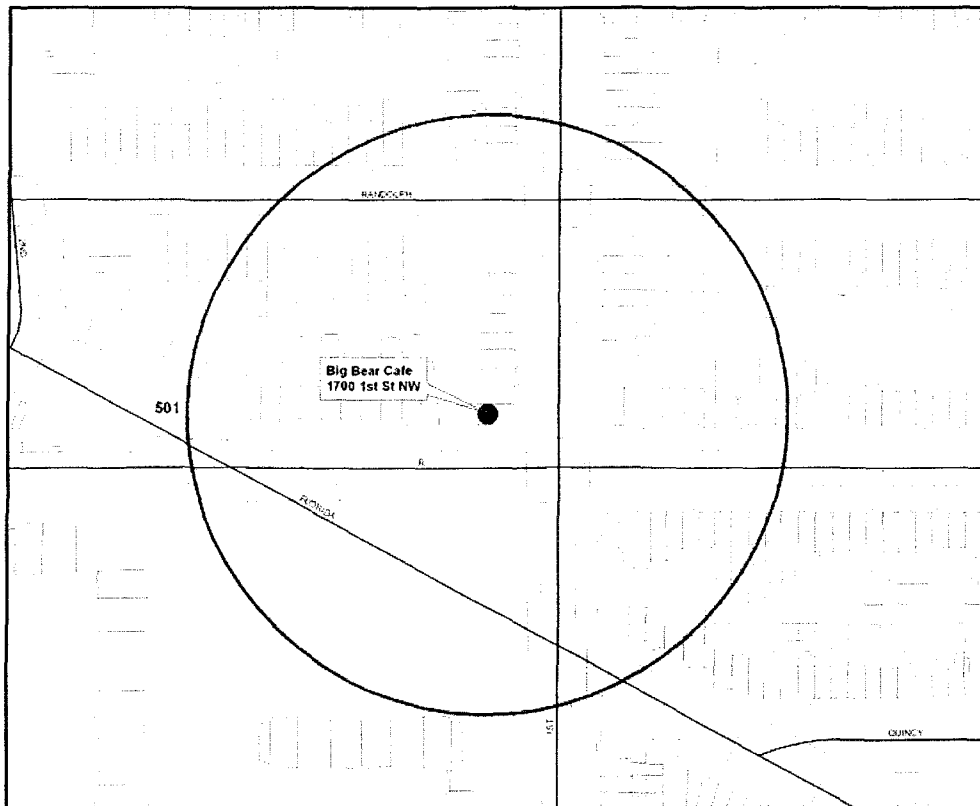
Fifth District

## Big Bear Café Area Crime

\*\*\* Information contained herein is intended for dissemination to authorized persons only \*\*\*

Prepared by: Officer Malengo, Fifth District Crime Analysis Unit

Information Retrieved: 5/24/2010



### Area Year to Date Comparison

	Big Bear Café Area		
	2009	2010	% CHANGE
Homicide	0	0	***
Sexual Assault	0	0	***
Robbery	1	0	-100%
ADW	0	0	***
Violent Crime	1	0	-100%
Burglary	0	0	***
Theft Other	0	2	***
Theft F/Vehicle	10	1	-90%
Stolen Auto	0	2	***
Arson	0	0	***
Property Crime	10	5	-50%
Total	11	5	-55%

### Area Crime January 2006 - Present

Homicide	0
Sexual Assault	0
Robbery	10
ADW	7
Violent Crime	17
Burglary	9
Theft Other	11
Theft F/Vehicle	18
Stolen Auto	6
Arson	0
Property Crime	44
Total	61